

Low Birth Weight**Definition/
cut-off value**

Birth weight #5 pounds 8 ounces (#2500 g.)

For infants and children <24 months of age

**Participant
category and
priority level****Category****Priority**

Infants

I

Children <24 months old

III

Justification

Low birth weight (LBW) is one of the most important biologic predictors of infant death. Deficiencies in physical and mental development during childhood among those babies who survive continue to be a strong predictor of growth in early childhood. Infants and children born with LBW, particularly LBW caused by fetal growth restriction, need an optimal nutrient intake to survive and meet the needs of an extended period of relatively rapid growth.

**Clarifications/
Guidelines**

This risk code may be used for premature infants, ie., infants born before completing the 37th week gestation..

References

1. Institute of Medicine: WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria: A Scientific Assessment; 1996; pp. 97-100.
2. Groh-Wargo, S., Thompson, M., Cox, J. Editors: Nutrition Care for High Risk Newborns: "Routine Nutrition Care During Follow-up"; Jeanine Stice; 1994; pp. 380-390.